

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A character information collating apparatus for filing medical image data with ID data, comprising:

an inputting section to input medical image data and a character information data including ID data identifying a patient as a data set;

an information memorizing section to memorize a plurality of data sets corresponding to a plurality of different patients, wherein the plurality of data sets include a plurality of different ~~character information~~ ID data identifying the plurality of different patients; and

a retrieving section to retrieve the plurality of data sets memorized in the information memorizing section;

wherein when the inputting section inputs a ~~new~~ data set including ~~new~~ medical image data of a patient and ~~a new character information data and ID data of the patient~~, the retrieving section judges ~~that the plurality of data sets include whether the information memorizing section has already memorized a data set that includes the same character information ID data as the new character information inputted ID data, and when the inputted ID is the same as previously memorized ID data, the new inputted data set is correlated with the data set including the that~~

includes said same ~~character information~~ ID data and the inputted
medical image data is memorized as medical image data of the same
patient as the memorized data set including said same ID data in
25 the information memorizing section.

2. (Currently Amended) The character information collating
apparatus of claim 1, wherein the information memorizing section
memorizes ~~image data and character data as the~~ plurality of data
~~set sets with file address data~~ and the retrieving section
5 ~~retrieves the image data and the character data in the plurality~~
~~of data sets~~ using one of the ID data and the file address data.

3. (Currently Amended) The character information collating
apparatus of claim 1, wherein ~~the image data contain a character~~
~~image data and the character information~~ the ID data are
is obtained from the character an ID image, which is included in
5 a medical image outputted from a photographing device that
photographs a body part of a patient, data by a technique of
using a character recognition technique .

4. (Currently Amended) The character information collating
apparatus of claim 1, wherein the retrieving section comprises:

a character information retrieving section to retrieve ID
data corresponding to the inputted ~~new character information~~ ID
5 data from the plurality of ~~character information~~ ID data;

a comparing section to compare the inputted ~~new character~~
~~information~~ ID data with ~~a character information~~ the ID data
obtained from the plurality of ~~character information~~ ID data; and

a determining section to determine the ~~character information~~
10 ID data based on a ~~comparison~~ result of the comparison by the
comparing section.

5. (Currently Amended) The character information collating
apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

an operating section to correct a data set,

wherein only the data set corrected by the operating section
5 is correlated with ~~as~~ the data set including the same ~~character~~
~~information~~ ID data memorized in the information memorizing
section.

6. (Currently Amended) The character information
collating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the ~~new~~ inputted data set
is memorized in the information memorizing section in a
correlated form with the memorized data set including the same
5 ~~character information~~ ID data.

7. (Currently Amended) The character information collating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data set includes ~~an~~ inspection data to identify an inspection conducted for the medical image data of the data set, and the plurality of data sets include a plurality of different inspection data, and

wherein when the retrieving section judges that the ~~new~~ inputted data has the same inspection data as that of the data set including the same ~~character information~~ ID data, the ~~new~~ inputted data set is correlated with the data set including the same ~~character information~~ inspection data memorized in the information memorizing section.

8. (Currently Amended) The character information collating apparatus of claim 1, wherein the data set includes ~~a~~ date data indicating a date at which the medical image data of the data set is inputted, and the plurality of data sets include a plurality of different date data, and

wherein when the retrieving section judges that the ~~new~~ inputted data has date data ~~right before or right after~~ close in time to the date data of the data set including the same ~~character information~~ ID data, the ~~new~~ inputted data set is correlated with the data set including the ~~same character information~~ close date data memorized in the information memorizing section.

9. (Currently Amended) A The character information collating correcting apparatus of claim 4, ~~comprising:~~

~~an inputting section to input image data and a character information data as a data set;~~

5 ~~an information memorizing section to memorize a specific character information data;~~

~~a comparing section to compare the character information data with the specific character information data;~~
~~and~~

10 ~~an operating section to operate the data set;~~

wherein when the comparing section judges that the ~~character information~~ inputted ID data coincides with the ~~specific character information~~ obtained ID data, the ~~operation section~~ holds the character information data coinciding with the ~~specific character information~~ the inputted ID data is held until being corrected by the an operating section.

Claims 10 and 11 (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The character information collating correcting apparatus of claim ~~11~~ 9, wherein when the comparing section judges that the ~~character information~~ inputted ID data coincides with the ~~specific character information~~

5 ~~obtained ID data, the operation section holds the character~~
~~information data coinciding with the specific character~~
~~information the inputted ID data is held~~ until being corrected by
the an operating section without conducting the retrieving.

13. (New) The character information collating apparatus of
claim 2, wherein when the inputted data set is correlated with
the memorized data set including the same ID data, the inputted
data set is provided with a same file address data as the
5 memorized data set and is transmitted with the provided file
address data from the inputting section to the information
memorizing section.

14. (New) The character information collating apparatus of
claim 1, wherein the character information data of the inputted
data is made to be the same as character information data of the
memorized data set including the same ID data.